

Montana Invasive Species Bulletin

Brought to you by the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council

www.dnrc.mt.gov/cadd/misc

The Invasive Species Bulletin provides you with all the latest news on invasive species in Montana and the region. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, contributions, questions, corrections, or comments.

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Montana News

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission Members Appointed

In response to the invasive mussel detections in two Montana waterways last year, the 2017 Legislature established the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3) to enhance early detection and rapid response efforts through increased coordination with water management agencies within the Columbia River Basin in Montana, as well as to provincial and state partners in the basin.

"Ensuring our early detection monitoring programs are coordinated and comprehensive, as well as preparing for an emergency response to an AIS detection will be the focus of this group," said Thomas Woolf, Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau Chief. "The Columbia River Basin is the largest watershed in the lower 48 that doesn't have mussels, and Montana is working hard to keep it that way."

The following individuals / organizations have been appointed by Governor Bullock to serve on the commission.

Dennis Clairmont, Pablo. Qualification: representative of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Clairmont represents the Pablo District on the CSKT Tribal Council.

Lori Curtis, Whitefish. Qualification: representative of conservation districts. Curtis is the Flathead conservation district Supervisor and the director of science and education at the Whitefish Lake Institute

Mike Koopal, Whitefish. Qualification: member-at-large. Koopal is the Executive Director of the Whitefish Lake Institute.

Paul Kusnierz, Noxon. Qualification: representative of the hydropower utility industry. Kusnierz is a fisheries biologist at Avista Utilities.

Tom Woolf, Helena. Qualification: representative of the Invasive Species Council. Woolf is the Chief of the Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Nominations for individuals to represent private landowners, private industry, and recreational organizations are still being accepted. The first meeting of the UC3 will be held October 4 in Missoula. [Click here](#) for more information about the UC3.

Hay Donated to Fire Victims May Contain Noxious Weeds

Hay donations from across the country have provided much-needed relief to central and eastern Montana ranchers affected by wildfire and severe drought. While the donations have been critical to feed livestock in the wake of the Lodgepole Complex fire, noxious and invasive weed species have been detected in hay delivered from other locations in Montana and from other states. [Click here to learn how to prevent weed spread from donated hay.](#)

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/montana/articles/2017-09-07/hay-donated-to-fire-victims-may-contain-noxious-weeds>

<http://www.ktvh.com/2017/09/dnrc-invasive-weeds-found-in-donated-hay>

<http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/keci/invasive-species-detected-in-donated-hay/617180960>

Montana Mussel Team Wins PNWER Award

The Montana Mussel Team was awarded the Hot Potato Award for their work on building a firewall to protect the shared U.S. and Canadian Columbia River Basin following the discovery of invasive mussels in Montana....[read more.](#)

Regional AIS News

Visit the Aquatic Invasive Species Network at westernais.org for the latest AIS news in and around the region. (Thanks, Stephen)

Alberta Rolls Out Decontamination Protocol

Alberta Environment and Parks has approved a decontamination protocol that was created in response to Alberta's first whirling disease detection in Banff National Park in August 2016. Get the [decontamination protocol](#) here, which is being implemented province-wide.

Other

September Weed Post (MSU Extension and the Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign)

The [September Weed Post](#) highlights research into how timing of seeding of the native perennial grass bluebunch wheatgrass can influence its establishment.

S2017 MWCA Fall Weed Manager Training, October 10-12, Butte

Visit www.mtweed.org for a complete agenda and to register.

First UC3 Meeting

October 4, 10-4

Montana DNRC Forestry Building, Missoula

Next MISAC Meeting

November 30, 10-4

Montana DNRC Headquarters, Helena

For more information about MISAC and to access archives of this e-newsletter go to: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/MISC>